

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claims 1-8, 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21-24 are amended, claims 9, 12, 14 and 16-20 are canceled, without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein, and new claims 25-30 are added. Accordingly, claims 1-8, , 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21-30 are pending in this application. The Specification is also amended to better conform to U.S. practice. No new matter is added.

The Examiner is thanked for the many courtesies extended to Applicants' attorney in the course of scheduling and conducting a personal interview on December 19, 2005. The substance of the interview is incorporated herein in accordance with MPEP §713.04.

Claims 1-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as indefinite. This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 9, 12, 14 and 16-20 and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

As discussed during the interview, the amendments to the claims address the points raised in the Office Action. In particular, Applicants have included the language suggested by the Examiner to more clearly link the structural features recited in amended claim 1. Also, claim 23 is amended to be in independent form as suggested by the Examiner. With respect to claim 24, Applicants attach a copy of a web page identifying "cereal flour" as a common term with a recognized meaning, as discussed at the interview.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, , 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21-24 fully comply with 35 U.S.C. 112. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6, 12, 13, 14 and 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over U.S. Patent 6,503,256 to Parkin et al. (Parkin). This rejection is moot with respect to canceled claims 12 and 14 and is respectfully traversed with respect to the remaining claims.

Independent claim 1 recites micro-abrasion device comprising *inter alia* "a base station . . . a handpiece . . . and a removable cartridge configured to be fitted onto the base station and removed therefrom, the cartridge comprising: a first reservoir containing a powder to be supplied

to the handpiece via said flexible supply pipe, and a second reservoir configured to collect powder returning from the handpiece via said flexible return pipe.” As discussed at the personal interview, Parkin fails to disclose, teach or suggest these claimed features.

As shown in Figure 1 of Parkin, for example, Parkin discloses a microdermal abrasion apparatus 10 including an abrasive supply container 12, a handpiece 14, a disposable waste filter 16, an air line filter 20 and a vacuum pump 22. The handpiece 14 is connected to the abrasive supply container 12 by a supply line 30 and is connected to the disposable waste filter 16 by a disposal line 38. See line 57, column 5 – line 9, column 6.

Although Parkin discloses that the major parts of the microdermal abrasion apparatus 10 may be constructed as an integral unit (col. 7, lns. 27-33), Parkin does not disclose, teach or suggest that the abrasive supply container 12 and the disposable waste filter 16 are part of a same removable cartridge configured to be fitted onto the base station and removed therefrom. On the contrary, Parkin clearly refers to the abrasive supply container 12 and the disposable waste filter 16 as separate elements. Thus, as discussed at the personal interview, Parkin does not disclose, teach or suggest a removable cartridge as recited in independent claim 1.

Independent claim 23 similarly recites a method of using a cartridge comprising *inter alia* “providing a device comprising a base station and a handpiece . . . providing a cartridge comprising a first reservoir . . . and a second reservoir . . . and fitting the cartridge onto the base station.” Because Parkin fails to disclose teach or suggest a removable cartridge, as discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that Parkin cannot reasonably be considered to disclose, teach or suggest these claimed method steps.


Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 1 and 23 are patentable over Parkin. Claims 2-6, 13, and 22-24 are patentable over Parkin at least in view of their dependence on claim 1, as well as for the additional features they recite. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection over Parkin is respectfully requested.

As discussed during the personal interview, each of the references submitted with the

Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith is deficient with respect to pending claims 1-8, , 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21-30. None of the references discloses, teaches or suggests a removable cartridge as recited in claim 1 or the method steps recited in claim 23. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-8, , 10, 11, 13, 15, and 21-30 are allowable over all of the art of record. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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WPB:KLK/hs

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time
Information Disclosure Statement
Copy of Web Page (<http://www.agriseek.com/sale/e/Ag-Products/Plant/Flour/Cereal/>)

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